

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 5-23, 26-31, 40, 43-52 and 55-57 are currently pending in this patent application.

Claims 40, 43-52 and 55-57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by United States Patent 6,787,597 (i.e., Martin). This rejection is respectfully traversed. The Martin reference discloses the reaction product of polymeric binder, crosslinking agent and copolymer (see Abstract). Acrylic polymers, polyesters and polyurethanes are disclosed as particularly useful polymeric binders (see column 5, lines 12-14). The Martin reference describes various reaction schemes for incorporating carbamate functional groups into the acrylic polymers, polyesters and polyurethanes (see column 6, lines 35-50; column 7, lines 31-43; and column 8, lines 9-23; respectively). For instance, carbamate functional groups may be incorporated into an acrylic polymer by reacting terminal functional groups on the polymer with a carbamate functional material, such as the reaction product of alcohol and urea (i.e., a transcarbamoylation reaction). Applicants submit that the reaction product of the transcarbamoylation reaction contains pendent carbamate functional groups (-O(C)ONH₂). This reaction product of the Martin reference is chemically distinguishable from the co-polymer of the claimed invention. In the claimed invention, the copolymer contains pendant groups of the structure -O(C)ON(R'')CH₂OR'. Thus, the claimed invention can be distinguished from the Martin reference and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) should not stand.

Claims 1, 5-23 and 26-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by the Martin reference. This rejection is respectfully traversed. The Martin reference discloses the reaction product of polymeric binder, crosslinking agent and copolymer (see Abstract). The Martin reference does not disclose nor suggest a reaction product wherein the reactants comprise co-polymer, aldehyde and alcohol. In the Martin reference, alcohol is used as solvent or additive for the polymeric binder reactant; the alcohol is not a reactant of the co-polymer component (see column 27, line 21). Further, the aldehydes disclosed in the Martin reference (see column 9, lines 5-20) are included in a list of various reactants used to produce suitable crosslinking agents for use in the reaction. Thus, in the Martin reference, neither the aldehyde nor the alcohol are reacted with the co-polymer. The reaction product in the claimed invention is distinguishable from the disclosure in the Martin reference. In the claimed invention, co-polymer is reacted with aldehyde and alcohol for alkylolation and/or etherification of carbamate functional-containing copolymer (see paragraph [0069] of the specification). In the claimed invention, "...when the copolymer

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contains pendent carbamate groups, the carbamate group-containing copolymer can be reacted directly with the aldehyde and monohydric alcohol." (See paragraph [0063] of the specification.) The reaction product of the claimed invention can be distinguished from the disclosure in the Martin reference, and thus, this rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) should not stand.

In conclusion, Applicants submit that based on the arguments set forth above, claims 1, 5-23, 26-31, 40, 43-52 and 55-57 are in condition for allowance. Thus, Applicants respectfully request re-consideration and allowance of these claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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